funds. The programme/interventions involving financial outlay upto Rs. 50.00 lakhs under both the packages will be implemented by the Government of Kerala from their own funds under their schemes.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Under the package for development of Kuttanad Wetland Eco-system, the Government of Kerala has submitted 53 project reports for strengthening of Padasekharams and 32 project reports pertaining to the areas of development of agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, environment management etc.

(e) The Kuttanad and Idukki packages will be implemented over a period of five years.

Public medical stores

†2044. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILISERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to start public medical stores for providing drugs at cheaper rates to the common man;

(b) if so, the time limit set to extend this scheme to every district in the country;

(c) the mechanism put in place to ensure the availability of medicines at the above sales centres; and

(d) whether accountability has been fixed for shortage of medicines in these stores and if so, the authority who will be held accountable for this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (d) Government has decided to open "jan aushadhi" generic drug stores in the country depending upon the financial assistance and other support offered by respective State Governments. The first District Generic Store in the name of" jan aushadhi" has been opened at Civil Hospital, Amritsar (Punjab) on 25-11-08. The list of medicines is finalized in consultation with State Governments. Bureau of Pharma Central Public Sector Undertakings has been asked to ensure availability of medicines at all" jan aushadhi" generic drug stores keeping in view the requirement of each State.

Foreign investment in pharma industry

2045.SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the Ranbaxy's takeover by a Japanese multinational that poses a big threat to the survival of the domestic generic industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government proposes to take to impose control on foreign investment in pharma sector to prevent complete MNC hold in the industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. Recent takeover of Ranbaxy by a Japanese multinational is already there in the notice of the Government. As per the extant policy, FDI upto 100%, under the automatic route, is allowed for drugs and pharmaceutical industry subject to sectoral regulations and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

licensing requirements, where applicable. The policy on FDI is reviewed on a continuing basis through an inter-ministerial consultation process with a view to rationalization/liberalization of the policy.

Overcharging of drugs

2046.SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) detected instances of over-charging and selling without price approval of several hundred categories of drugs by major drug manufacturers and have launched process of recovery from them the overcharged amount and penalty;

(b) if so, the details of the findings of NPPA;

(c) the current status of the process of recovery of over-charged sums and penalty from the guilty manufacturers; and

(d) the steps initiated, if any, by Government to prevent recurrence of such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) Yes, Sir. NPPA has detected several instances of overcharging and selling without price approval.

(b) to (d) Since the inception of National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in August 1997, NPPA has raised a total demand of Rs. 1815.86 crores (up to 30.11.08) for recovery towards overcharged amount, under the provisions of Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995 (DPCO, 1995) read with Essential Commodities Act, 1955. NPPA has recovered Rs.131.99 crores so far (upto 30.11.08) from defaulting companies. Recoveries amounting to Rs. 1442.57 crores are *sub-judice* in various Courts. The recovery of balance amount of overcharging is in different stages of recovery. NPPA continues to take appropriate action regularly for recovery of the overcharged amount.

Relief packages given by private organizations to the Bhopal tragedy victims

2047.SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether several private trusts have been engaged in organizing relief/rehabilitation for citizens suffering from ailments and deformities due to the poisonous gas leak on 3rd December, 1984 at the Union Carbide factory in Bhopal;

(b) if so, the details of such private trusts/Voluntary Organizations (VO), duly recognized by Government, who have been engaged in the relief and rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims indicating the details of financial grants, if any, provided to each of them, year-wise;

(c) whether donations to these trusts/VOs made eligible to exemption under the Income Tax Act; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?